

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I urge you to reject the merger of EchoStar and DirectTV. The existing competition is healthy providing differences in programming, customer service, infrastructure investments, and technology.

The merger would eliminate the clash of market advantages these two have built. EchoStar has better on-orbit resources and technology, DirectTV has a larger customer base. Of course they want to merge to eliminate competition and produce a monolithic entity with a substantial captive market.

Don't let this happen. Cable is usually a monopoly giving that the consumer no choice as to supplier. This leaves us with horrors like ATT with lousy customer service, broken promises to communities, and little infrastructure investment.

Permitting the merger would leave us with the choice between two huge companies each with a substantial captive market and no motivation to challenge each others core markets. Apartment dwellers are rarely permitted to install dishes, and rural citizens cannot get cable as it is not economic.

The touted competition is nothing more than smoke screen for a tacit market segmentation and the takeover of the entire program delivery industry by two monopolistic monoliths.

Let real competition flourish in America. Reject the Merger!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan Twichell
20 Agawam Rd
Acton, MA 01720